

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 30, 2004. Claims 45-55, 58, 61-66, 72 and 75 are presented for examination and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 45, 49, 55, 58, 61, 66, 69, 72 and 75 are in independent form. Claims 56, 57, 59, 60, 67-71, 73, 74, 76 and 77 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

A Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were submitted on ----, in the parent application, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

Of the claims now pending, Claims 45, 50, 55, 58 and 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,255,308 (Hashimoto). Claims 46 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Hashimoto* in view of U.S. Patent 5,559,860 (Mizikovsky), Claims 47, 49, 52 and 54, as being obvious from *Hashimoto* in view of Japanese Kokai 57-007666 (Nakamura), Claim 61, as being obvious from *Hashimoto* in view of U.S. Patent 4,682,367 (Childress), and Claims 62 and 63, as being obvious from *Hashimoto* and *Childress* in view of *Mizikovsky*.

Independent Claim 45 is directed to a wireless communication system that includes a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses, including first and second

communication apparatuses, and a control apparatus linked with the plurality of communication apparatuses. The system as recited in Claim 45 comprises a link establishing unit adapted to establish links between the control apparatus and the first and second communication apparatuses, respectively, in accordance with detection of an incoming call, and a link maintaining unit adapted to maintain the link between the control apparatus and the second communication apparatus even if the first communication apparatus responds to the incoming call and starts communication with a communication partner.

Among other important features of the system of Claim 45 is the establishing of a link between a control apparatus and a first communication apparatus and a link between the control apparatus and a second communication apparatus in accordance with detection of an incoming call, and the maintaining of the link between the control apparatus and the second communication apparatus even if the first communication apparatus responds to the incoming call and starts communication with a communication partner.

Among other important features of Claim 45 is the establishment of a link between the control apparatus and the first communication apparatus, and of a link between the control apparatus and a second communication apparatus, in accordance with detection of an incoming call, and the maintaining of the link between the control apparatus and the second communication apparatus even if the first communication apparatus responds to the incoming call and starts communication with a communication partner.

Hashimoto relates to a system in which a control apparatus establishes links with a plurality of communication apparatuses upon notification of an incoming call to the

plurality of communication apparatuses in a group. In *Hashimoto*, however, there is no mention of a link with other communication apparatuses when one communication apparatus responds to the incoming call and starts communication. An object of *Hashimoto* is to notify an incoming call to a plurality of communication apparatuses in a group, and Applicants submit that nothing in that patent relates to the treatment of an existing link after notification is received of an incoming call.

Accordingly, Claim 45 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Hashimoto*.

Independent Claims 50, 55, 58 and 72 each recite the feature just discussed with regard to Claim 45, and are therefore deemed also to be clearly allowable over *Hashimoto* for at least the reason discussed in connection with Claim 45.

Mizikovsky has a system in which a peripheral device according to the telephone number of a calling party is connected.

Nakamura has the connection between an attendant board ATT and a called subscriber B being cut off when the attendant board ATT calls the called subscriber B designated by an extension A and a predetermined time passed or the called subscriber B answers the call from the attendant board ATT.

Childress merely has a free channel reserved for connecting with a partner when communication is performed and the communication is started.

That is, *Hashimoto*, *Mizikovsky*, *Nakamura*, and *Childress* fail to disclose that links between a control apparatus and a plurality of communication apparatuses established in accordance with detection of an incoming call are maintained even if communication between a

communication apparatus and a communication partner is started.

Independent Claim 61 is directed to a communication apparatus capable of communicating with first and second apparatuses, that comprises a connection unit adapted to connect communication channels with the first and second apparatuses, respectively, in accordance with a communication request that is communicated from a third apparatus. A channel maintaining unit maintains a communication channel connected by the connection unit with the second apparatus even if the first apparatus starts communication with the third apparatus.

Among other important features of Claim 61 is the connecting of communication channels with a first and a second apparatus in accordance with a communication request from a third apparatus, and the maintaining of a channel with the second apparatus even if the first apparatus starts communication with the third apparatus.

Initially, it is believed clear that this feature is not taught by *Hashimoto*, and that Claim 61 is allowable over that patent, taken alone.

Mizikovsky, *Nakamura*, and *Childress* fail to disclose that channels with a plurality of apparatuses connected in accordance with a communication request are maintained even if communication between arbitrary apparatuses is started.

Independent Claims 66 and 75 also recite the feature discussed with regard to Claim 61, and are believed allowable over the prior art applied against them by virtue of at least that feature.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in

Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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